

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00954 111248Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
IO-13 /055 W

-----111324Z 124203 /53

R 111005Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7664
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SHUM NP
SUUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS NEPAL

1. GOVERNMENT MARCH 9 ANNOUNCED THAT NUMBER OF PERSONS
CURRENTLY BEING DETAINED IN NEPAL UNDER PUBLIC SECURITY
ACT IS 57. ACCORDING TO HOME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, 10
PERSONS WERE ARRESTED UNDER THE ACT IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, HE
STATED THAT OF THE 57, 15 ARE BEING HELD IN KATHMANDU. ALL
PRISONERS ARE RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

2. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IS, IN PART, REACTION TO
CALL BY INDIAN JANATA PARTY FOR RELEASE OF B.P. KOIRALA ON GROUNDS
THAT HE WAS NOT RECEIVING ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT (KOIRALA
IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO SUFFER FROM BLOOD DISEASE RELATED TO
LEUKEMIA.) AT SAME TIME WE HAVE LEARNED FROM EMBASSY SOURCES
THAT PALACE IS CONCERNED AT HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE OF
NEW US ADMINISTRATION. ALTHOUGH SOURCES REPORT THAT PALACE
RECOGNIZES RELATIVE US IGNORANCE ABOUT NEPAL, THEY ARE
FEARFUL THAT ENTERPRISING US JOURNALIST COULD WRITE A STORY
WHICH WOULD POINT OUT LACK OF LEGAL INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL
OPPOSITION AND NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD.
NUMBER OF 57 ACCORDS OF ROUGHLY WITH EMBASSY'S OWN ESTIMATE, BUT
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WE HAVE HEARD SEVERAL REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 200 PERSONS
ARE BEING HELD UNDER A VARIETY OF CRIMINAL CHARGES RELATED
TO THEIR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNIST, AS WELL AS CONGRESS, PARTIES.
MAYTAG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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